

Deans Community High School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Attendees

Angela Ritchie (Chair), Pauline Allison (HT), Caroline Bleach (DHT), Mark Cockburn, Sandra Fannon, Patricia Miller, Heather Marriot, Caroline Bennett, Janice Ritchie

Apologies

Caroline Bennett

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Review of the Minutes from previous Meeting
4. Parent Council Feedback – Parents Evenings
5. Head Teacher’s update
6. AOCB

1. Welcome

AR welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

As stated above.

3. Review of Previous Minutes

Previous minutes were accepted.

4. Parent Council Feedback – Parents Evenings

The new parents’ evening system has been used for S5/6, S4 and S2 parents’ evenings. The current uptake is around 50% and overall feedback from staff has been positive. Following the first parents’ evening one point of feedback from staff was that there had to be a small time gap between each appointment and this was subsequently incorporated into the following parents’ evenings. HM reported that her experience had been seamless, the stress of moving from one place to another in a hurry has been removed and therefore makes it less likely to miss appointment slots from waiting in queues. One suggestion was that the time allocation of 5 minutes may not have been enough and could be increased. MC made another suggestion of perhaps having a minute warning that the time was coming to an end.

PA will issue a survey to parents and staff on looking towards next year and if the new system is worth taking forward, it may be a means for S1 parents to see more teachers and can also avoid the possibility of cancellations due to adverse weather conditions and childcare implications.

5. Update from HT

Return of Some Senior Phase Pupils

PA reported on the return of a limited number of senior phase pupils. These are pupils undertaking some practical subjects where certain areas of coursework cannot be completed remotely at home, for example in DMG the pupils do not have access to the specialised computer software at home and in practical woodwork where pupils have to have access to tools etc.

The number of pupils in the school at any time cannot exceed 5-8% of the current school roll (this is not including vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers already in school). A 2m distance must be maintained between students and staff at all times.

There has been no change in timetable for these pupils; the pupils will work remotely at home as usual and will only come into school for their practical subject on specified double periods and then will return home straight after. Any pupils who rely on school transport can make arrangements to stay in school all day and work remotely from there until the end of the day when the transport will return. Classes with a larger number of pupils have been split and will work on a rotation for coming into school.

At present there are still many restrictions around PE and Music and the school are working within the guidelines on these until more information is given.

Lateral Flow Devices

The school has been provided with LFD kits for all staff and senior phase pupils who will be coming into the building. Participation in the testing is voluntary. Pupil pack contain 3x tests and staff packs contain 7x tests. Tests are carried out twice weekly with a result given in 30 minutes, the results are then input onto an NHS digital portal. All other restrictions still remain in place, such as the 2m social distancing, hand sanitising and the wearing of face coverings.

Student Engagement

The school have been keeping a close eye on student engagement with pupils being monitored via how often they are logging onto teams and submitting work. Staff are using this data to fill in a weekly engagement spreadsheet. Pupils flagged up as not engaging are being contacted by SMT, HOH and PTCs the phone calls home seem to be helping to re-engage.

SQA

SQA have since changed the date of submission for results, this has been pushed back by a couple of weeks to 25 June 2021. There have been no further updates, and the focus remains on learning and teaching.

S2 Careers Week

Usually S2 would experience careers week in February in the run up to course choice. This year it has been launched virtually. Emma Ward (DYW business link) has put together a number of videos of

guest speakers. The S2 have been set assignments on their year group team based on these videos, the tasks are skills focused with some self-reflection built in. PSE time has been used to facilitate 1-1 meetings with Evelyn Rogers the careers advisor or small group sessions. The small group sessions have led to good discussion and may be taken forward next year. The school captain and vice-captain along with the S6 leadership team organised subject specific talks for the senior phase pupils via teams meets.

6. AOCB

- MC asked a question surrounding course choice, would classes e.g. French be streamlined by ability?

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 18:00 via Skype for Business.